

Birthday celebrations

Friends gathered at the Huronia Nursing Home in Penetanguishene this week to join in birthday celebrations for four of the home's residents. Shown seated from left to right are: Mrs. Exilda Noble, Mrs.

Jean Wettlauffer, and Mrs. Dorothy Bowles. Standing is WilfredClarke. Celebrants were treated to a piano rendition of "Happy Birthday" and delicious cake baked at the home.

Telecare:

a friendly voice to the rescue

Organizers of Telecare, Midland's proposed new "befriending and listening service" feel there's a real need for Telecare in North Simcoe.

Rev. Jim Manuel of Calvary Baptist Church, Midland, is part of a team of local adults who feel with a potential calling population of 35,000 people in this part of the county, there are "many who are distressed who, in the past, have had no one to turn to."

The 24-hour, seven days a week Christian counselling service should get off the ground early next year in Midland.

In between time Telecare will be training volunteers. An open meeting has been arranged for Sept. 30 at 8 p.m. at Midland Secondary School. Then commencing Oct. 7 the local organization

will be conducting training sessions.

At least 50 hours of training will be required

At least 50 hours of training will be required, they have e through a series of about 20 sessions, before sellors.

volunteers will start manning phones.

Although they'll be in the front line, so to speak, professionals who volunteer as back-up resource people will be on call to give the telephone counsellors moral and professional support.

Telecare will be a confidential service with trained friendly listeners who will be as close as your telephone should you become depressed or troubled.

"Telecare, like other distress centres will have high standards to meet. It will also put lay people in a position to be very helpful," Rev. Manuel observed.

Once Telecare gets off the ground, and is fully operational, summaries will be prepared to pinpoint and profile Telecare clients and the kinds of needs they have expressed by talking to Telecare counsellors.

The Final Countdown big-budget adventure

by Terry Dupuis

The Final Countdown is the title of a new big-budget adventure-fantasy. It's the type of what-if story that we used to see on Rod Sterling's popular "Twilight Zone" show, and it is also reminiscent of another old television series called "Time Tunnel" in which the series regulars went into a different time period each week and tried to change history.

Where The Final Countdown has an advantage is in its special effects and in its impressive all-star cast. It also features the actual U.S.S. Nimitz, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier which belongs to the United States Navy.

Kirk Douglas heads the cast of The Final Countdown as the commanding officer of the U.S.S. Nimitz. One day while they are patrolling the Pacific, the carrier gets sucked into a time warp. It ends up near Pearl Harbour on December 6, 1941, one day before the Japanese will launch their sneak attack on the naval base, bringing the United States into World War Two.

This presents Douglas and his mates with an interesting dilemna. They have it in their power with their nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to strike first and wipe out the enemy. But what would happen after that?

Science-fiction plots about the possibility of changing history have always fascinated me, and The Final Countdown is no exception. I found the movie to be spellbinding all the way.

The Final Countdown is definitely a rise in the career fortunes of Kirk Douglas. After some roles in such dismal clinkers as Saturn 3, The Fury, and The Chosen, he once again has a role that allows him to maintain his dignity. I also enjoyed Martin Sheen's work as a civilian efficiency expert. Sheen is an actor who has always seemed to me to be on the verge of stardom, but he has never quite made it. With Apocalypse Now he just about did it, and The Final Countdown gives him a further nudge in the right direction.

James Farentino is the ship's executive officer who is often at odds with commander Douglas. And I enjoyed Charles Durning in his role as a 1941 Washington bigwig who is upset because nobody ever told him about the existence of the enormous vessel that Douglas and Company arrive on.

The direction of The Final Countdown is competently handled by Don Taylor, a former actor who has also directed the remake of The Island Of Dr. Moreau as well as the Omen sequel which was called Damien.

The U.S.S. Nimitz is actually used in the film. In fact, much of the action takes place on board her. Even if time-warp stories are not your bag, this aircraft carrier is a sight to behold, and almost worth a trip to the theatre in itself.

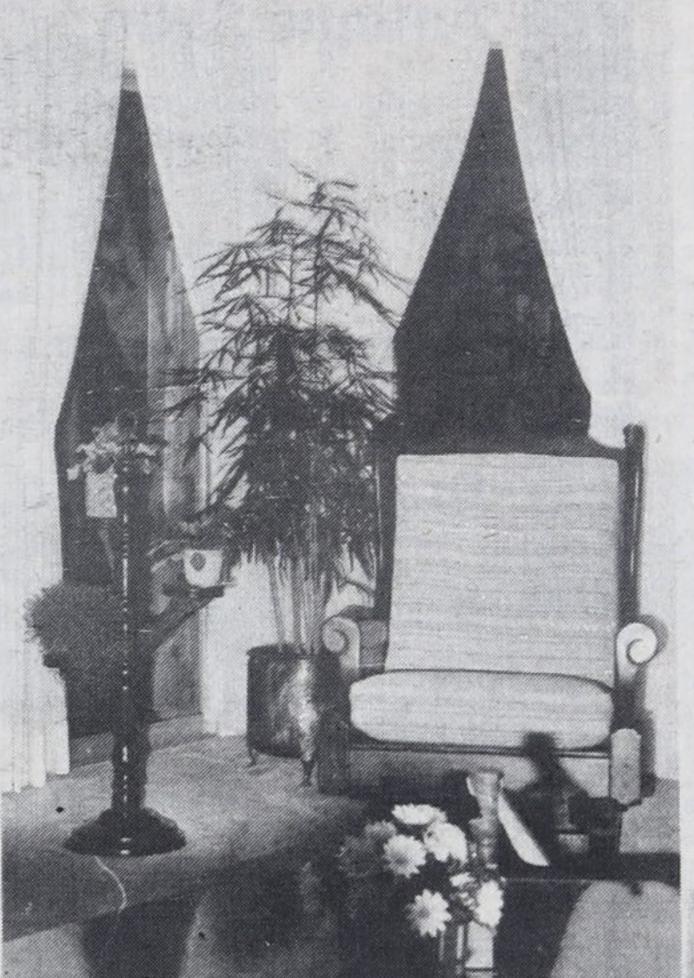
The producer of The Final Countdown is Peter Douglas, Kirk's youngest son. One of Douglas's other sons Michael is already a distinguished producer with One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest and The China Syndrome both to his credit.

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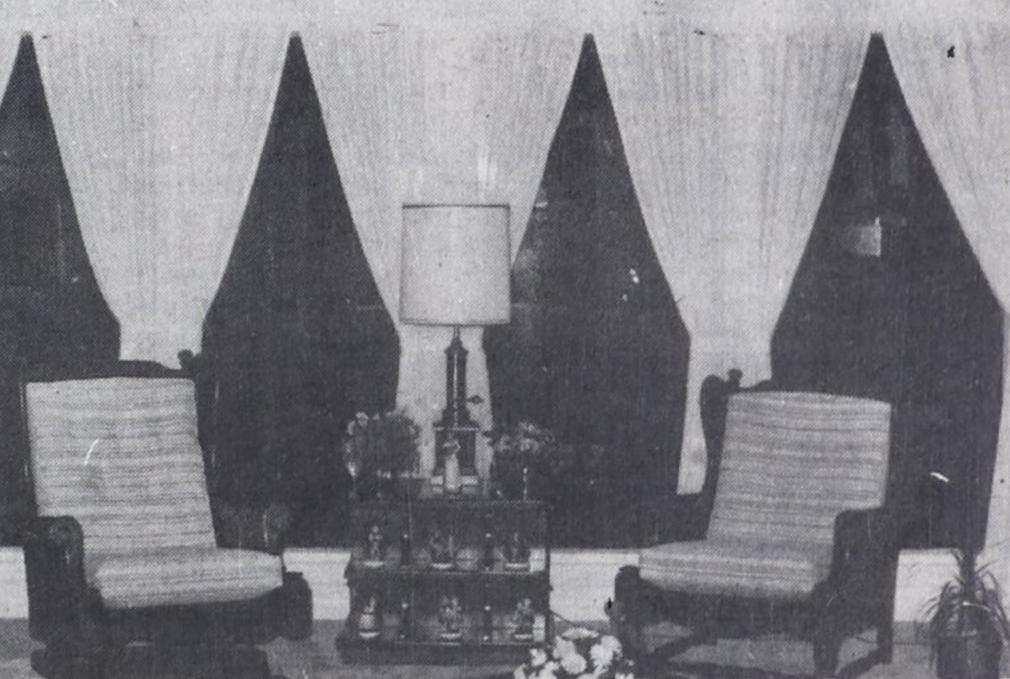
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